

3.1.37-120 Quick Write (Mercutio's Death)

Romeo and Juliet

Close Reading Directions: Re-read the following passage; it is the first scene in the third act in *Romeo and Juliet*. As you read, Mark the Text and Write in the Margins using the following guidelines.

Mark the Text:

- Box unknown words/phrases
- Circle important nouns
- Underline important details
- Highlight any information that helps reveal who is responsible for Mercutio's death

Write in the Margins:

- **Respond:** What circumstances or decisions led to Mercutio's death?
- **Question:** Who should be held responsible for Mercutio's death?

3.1.37-120

TYBALT

- 37 Follow me close, for I will speak to them.
38 Gentlemen, good den: a word with one of you.

MERCUTIO

- 39 And but one word with one of us? couple it with
40 something; make it a word and a blow.

TYBALT

- 41 You shall find me apt enough to that, sir, an you
42 will give me occasion.

MERCUTIO

- 43 Could you not take some occasion without
44 giving?

TYBALT

- 45 Mercutio, thou consort'st with Romeo,—

MERCUTIO

- 46 Consort! what, dost thou make us minstrels? an
47 thou make minstrels of us, look to hear nothing but
48 discords: here's my fiddlestick; here's that shall
49 make you dance. 'Zounds, consort!

BENVOLIO

- 50 We talk here in the public haunt of men:
51 Either withdraw unto some private place,
52 And reason coldly of your grievances,
53 Or else depart; here all eyes gaze on us.

MERCUTIO

- 54 Men's eyes were made to look, and let them gaze;
55 I will not budge for no man's pleasure, I.
Enter ROMEO.

TYBALT

- 56 Well, peace be with you, sir: here comes my man.

MERCUTIO

- 57 But I'll be hanged, sir, if he wear your livery:
58 Marry, go before to field, he'll be your follower;
59 Your worship in that sense may call him "man."

TYBALT

- 60 Romeo, the love I bear thee can afford
61 No better term than this: thou art a villain.

ROMEO

- 62 Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee
63 Doth much excuse the appertaining rage
64 To such a greeting: villain am I none;
65 Therefore farewell; I see thou know'st me not.

TYBALT

- 66 Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries
67 That thou hast done me; therefore turn and draw.

ROMEO

- 68 I do protest I never injured thee,
69 But love thee better than thou canst devise,
70 Till thou shalt know the reason of my love:
71 And so, good Capulet,—which name I tender
72 As dearly as my own,—be satisfied.

MERCUTIO

- 73 O calm, dishonourable, vile submission!
74 *Alla stoccata* carries it away.

[*Draws.*]

- 75 Tybalt, you rat-catcher, will you walk?

TYBALT

- 76 What wouldst thou have with me?

MERCUTIO

- 77 Good King of Cats, nothing but one of your nine
78 lives; that I mean to make bold withal, and as you
79 shall use me hereafter, drybeat the rest of the
80 eight. Will you pluck your sword out of his pilcher
81 by the ears? make haste, lest mine be about your
82 ears ere it be out.

TYBALT

- 83 I am for you.

[*Drawing.*]

ROMEO

- 84 Gentle Mercutio, put thy rapier up.

MERCUTIO

- 85 Come, sir, your *passado*.

[*They fight.*]

ROMEO

- 86 Draw, Benvolio; beat down their weapons.
87 Gentlemen, for shame, forbear this outrage!
88 Tybalt, Mercutio, the prince expressly hath
89 Forbidden bandying in Verona streets:

[*Romeo steps between them.*]

- 90 Hold, Tybalt! good Mercutio!

[*Tybalt under Romeo's arm stabs Mercutio.*] Away Tybalt [*with his followers*].

MERCUTIO

90 I am hurt.
 91 A plague o' both your houses! I am sped.
 92 Is he gone, and hath nothing?

BENVOLIO

92 What, art thou hurt?

MERCUTIO

93 Ay, ay, a scratch, a scratch; marry, 'tis enough.
 94 Where is my page? Go, villain, fetch a surgeon.

[Exit Page.]

ROMEO

95 Courage, man; the hurt cannot be much.

MERCUTIO

96 No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a
 97 church door; but 'tis enough, 'twill serve. Ask for me
 98 tomorrow, and you shall find me a grave man. I am
 99 peppered, I warrant, for this world. A plague o' both
 100 your houses! 'Zounds, a dog, a rat, a mouse, a cat, to
 101 scratch a man to death! a braggart, a rogue, a villain,
 102 that fights by the book of arithmetic! Why the devil
 103 came you between us? I was hurt under your arm.

ROMEO

104 I thought all for the best.

MERCUTIO

105 Help me into some house, Benvolio,
 106 Or I shall faint. A plague o' both your houses!
 107 They have made worms' meat of me: I have it,
 108 And soundly too. Your houses!

Exeunt [Mercutio and Benvolio].

ROMEO

109 This gentleman, the prince's near ally,
 110 My very friend, hath got his mortal hurt
 111 In my behalf; my reputation stain'd
 112 With Tybalt's slander,—Tybalt, that an hour
 113 Hath been my kinsman! O sweet Juliet,
 114 Thy beauty hath made me effeminate
 115 And in my temper soften'd valour's steel!

Enter BENVOLIO.

BENVOLIO

116 O Romeo, Romeo, brave Mercutio's dead!
 117 That gallant spirit hath aspired the clouds,
 118 Which too untimely here did scorn the earth.

ROMEO

119 This day's black fate on moe days doth depend;
 120 This but begins the woe, others must end.

[Re-enter Tybalt.]

Character Body Maps: You will be assigned one of the following characters below. Working with a partner, collaboratively create a body map for your assigned character, completing all of the requirements included in the box below. You will first need to start out with a rough sketch (a stick figure will do!) of your character, then fill in the text evidence below for your character.

Characters:

1. Romeo
2. Mercutio
3. Tybalt

Body Map Requirements:

Thought Bubble: What does the character *feel*?

Head: What does the character *think*?

Shoulders: What burden does the character *carry*? What does he have weighing him down (literally or figuratively)?

Hands: What does the character *do*?

At the bottom of the map:

- 2-3 sentence *summary* of the character
- 1-2 sentences about how the character has *changed*.

Feet: Where does the character *go*?

Quick Write Directions: Answer the following prompt in paragraph form using **at least 2 pieces of text evidence** from the passage above.

Who is responsible for Mercutio's death?
